5: Jochelson A-5 (1910-11) 1928 Kamchadal

this was the only attempt to take Kamchatka by force, and it ended very unhappily for the Japanese.

When the Japanese were marching along the coast to the village Yavino, its inhabitants fled into the mountains, abandoning their houses, belongings, cattle and dogs. The Japanese finding no one in the village, occupied the Russian houses, hoisted a Japanese flag over the chapel and put up a post with a declaration of the annexation of Kamchatka to Japan. Some days later the Japanese returned to Osernaya taking with them all the cattle, horses and dogs from Yavino.

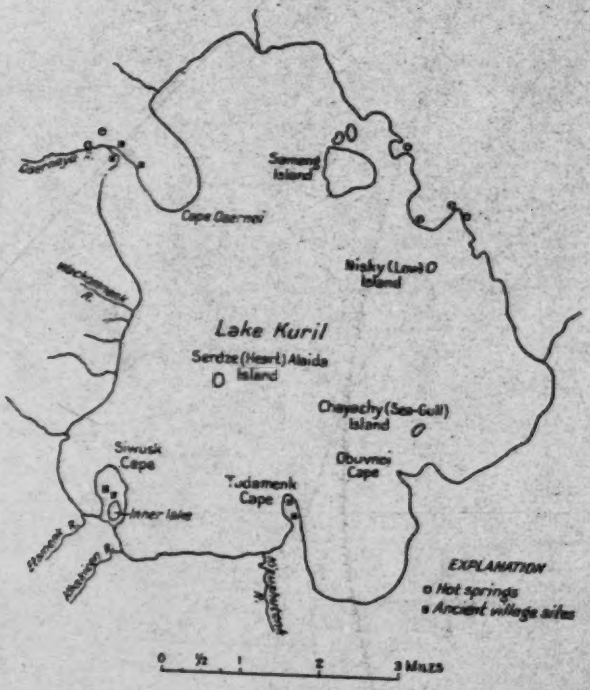
In the meantime a troop of Russian militia under command of Ensign Shaba arrived at the mouth of the Yavino River in a schooner from Bolsheretzk, and another detachment under Lieutenant Sotnikoff reached Yavino by land. Sotnikoff took command of both detachments. The combined Russian forces numbered only 80, and Sotnikoff did not venture an open attack but took refuge in a ruse. He despatched a man to Hundji, who pretended he had been sent by the inhabitants of Yavino to ask for a doctor and victuals. Hundji, a doctor and two interpreters all unarmed left Osernaya for Yavino. Along the way they were attacked from ambush. The interpreters were shot and Hundji and the doctor captured. Later a Russian detachment had a skirmish with a Japanese vanguard in which one Russian was killed and three were wounded. The Japanese doctor dressed their wounds. On the following morning the Japanese shot the cattle and dogs and left Osernaya in their schooners for the south.

This adventure resulted in the killing by the Russians of peaceful Japanese fishermen in many villages on the western coast of Kamchatka. Usually the Kamchadal are well disposed toward the Japanese, who are just in their relations to the former, attending their sick and furnishing them with medicine.

After the Russian-Japanese War many Russian adventurers, mostly discharged soldiers, found their way from Vladivostok to Kamchatka. Some were attracted by reports of rich profits obtained by sable hunting, others by the desire to introduce agriculture in Kamchatka, but they all remained and mixed with the native fishing population, Kamchadal and Russians. Another company of adventurers settled at the mouth of the Osernaya River, forming a new village. At first their condition was deplorable. Fishing was abundant but there was no market for exchange. They had no money, flour, tea and other commodities to which they were accustomed in their native places of European Russia. The women particularly longed for bread, and often said: "We would give up all the fish for one piece of bread, not mentioning our melons, fruits, meat, milk products and sweets." The majority of the immigrants were Ukrainians of southern Russia.

But two years before our arrival there all had changed. Enterprising firms, partly with American money, began to develop fisheries for the export of Kamchatka salmon. A saltery and a cannery were established in Osernaya and the Russian colony there worked during the short summer as laborers. The fishing company furnished them with money, food, clothing, fuel and building material and they were able to withstand the hardships caused by the most inhospitable of

167 seas, the Okhotsk, and the severest of climates. The factories were closed for the
563 eight winter months, but the summer was very busy. Scores of laborers were
228 brought on the company's steamers from the Amur River. Not all the necessary
464 structures were ready at that time, and the imported laborers slept under the
cover of primitive shades. Mountains of salt lay in the open, melting from rains.
A part of the laborers were busy preparing a kind of caviar from the roe of



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228 salmon. After taking out the roe they threw overboard the split fish, causing an enormous waste of food-material. The laborers in the saltery and cannery threw out from their seines all other fish than salmon, and from the latter the hump-back salmon, which was not in favor with the foreman of the plant.

182 From information gathered before my trip to the lake I knew that there were
000 several pits of ancient dwellings (see the map of the Kuril Lake). The natives have either died out or were exterminated by the Russian conquerors. My party